

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 111148Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3345
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, IN, JA, KOREA (SOUTH)
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT TOKYO AND SEOUL

1. FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE DEPARTS AUGUST 13 FOR VISITS TO
TOKYO AUGUST 14 TO 17 AND TO SEOUL AUGUST 17 TO 19. HE WILL
ALSO SPEND A DAY IN HONG KONG ON THE WAY HOME, REPORTEDLY TO
MEET WITH THE INDIAN COMMUNITY THERE.

2. ACCORDING TO JAPANESE FIRST SECRETARY, UMEZU, SENIOR MEA
OFFICIALS IN VAJPAYEE'S PARTY WILL BE SECRETARY (EAST) M.A.
VELLODI, ADDITIONAL SECRETARY (ASIA) E. GONSALVES AND JOINT
SECRETARY (NORTH AND EAST) C.V. RANGANATHAN. THESE OFFICIALS
ARE LEAVING AUGUST 11 TO PREPARE FOR VAJPAYEE'S ARRIVAL AND
TO HOLD OFFICIAL LEVEL TALKS THE MORNING OF AUGUST 14. VAJ-
PAYEE ARRIVES THAT AFTERNOON. MINISTERIAL LEVEL TALKS WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 15 AND 16. IN
ADDITION, VAJPAYEE IS SCHEDULED TO CALL ON THE PRIME MINIS-
TER AND TO MEET WITH THE EXTERNAL TRADE AND INDUSTRIES MIN-
ISTERS AND WITH THE CONSTRUCTION MINISTER, WHO IS ALSO HEAD
OF AN INDO-JAPANESE ASSOCIATION. AT THE REQUEST OF THE MEA
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HERE, VAJPAYEE WILL ALSO VISIT AN ELECTRONICS FACTORY IN YO-
KOHAMA.

3. ASKED ABOUT PRESS REPORTS THAT THE JAPANESE WISHED TO DIS-
CUSS NUCLEAR AND DISARMAMENT ISSUES WITH VAJPAYEE, UMEZU SAID
THAT THAT WAS "THE INDIAN WAY OF PUTTING IT" PERHAPS IN DE-
FERENCE TO VELLODI'S EXPERTISE IN THESE AREAS AND THE FACT

THAT HE IS A CANDIDATE TO HEAD THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION. UMEZU SAID THAT NUCLEAR AND DISARMAMENT ISSUES WERE ONE SUBJECT THE GOJ HAD INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS. UMEZU NOTED THAT INDIA AND JAPAN HAD MUCH IN COMMON IN THEIR POLICIES ON THESE ISSUES. HE THOUGHT THAT HIS SIDE WOULD AGAIN URGE THE INDIANS TO SIGN THE NPT BUT DID NOT THINK THE ISSUE WOULD BE PUSHED GIVEN THE INDIANS' ADAMANT OPPOSITION TO THE TREATY. OTHER SUBJECTS THE JAPANESE FORESAW FOR THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE RECENT BONN SUMMIT, THE NAM MINISTERIAL MEETING IN BELGRADE, AND THE SITUATION IN SOUTHWEST AND NORTHEAST ASIA. HE ALSO SAID THAT RESPECTIVE RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND WITH THE ASEAN AND INDO-CHINESE STATES WOULD BE DISCUSSED. UMEZU SAID THAT THE INDIANS HAD STRESSED THAT THEY WISHED A TOUR D'HORIZON AND THAT THEIR DELEGATION WOULD NOT INCLUDE ECONOMIC OFFICIALS. UMEZU NOTED THAT THERE WERE OTHER OFFICIAL-LEVEL FORA FOR BILATERAL ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS, BUT HE THOUGHT NEVERTHELESS THAT THE GOJ IN GENERAL TERMS WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE INDIANS LIBERALIZE THEIR INVESTMENT POLICY AND GAIN A GREATER APPRECIATION OF JAPAN'S TRADE ORGANIZATION.

4. UMEZU SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD WANTED VAJPAYEE TO VISIT EARLIER BUT HAD AGREED TO A VISIT AT THIS TIME SO THAT THE TRIP COULD BE COMBINED WITH THE SEOUL VISIT.

5. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE VISIT TO SEOUL WILL CONCENTRATE ON INCREASED ECONOMIC COOPERATION, PARTICULARLY IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRADE. ROK POLITICAL COUNSELOR TOLD US THAT ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE THE VISIT WOULD SIMPLY FOLLOW UP ON PREVIOUS TRADE AGREEMENTS. HE OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERED THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE VISIT OF MOST IMPORTANCE AND EXPRESSED PARTICULAR PLEASURE IN FACT THAT VAJPAYEE WAS MAKING THE TRIP SO SOON AFTER THE BELGRADE NON-ALIGNED MEETING.
GOHEEN

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